

Coffman Statement on Repeal of Anti-Trust Exemption for Insurers

(WASHINGTON) - Rep. Mike Coffman (R-Aurora) released the following statement today after voting in favor of H.R. 4626, the Health Insurance Industry Fair Competition Act, which provides a repeal of the narrow anti-trust exemption currently granted to health insurers by the McCarran-Ferguson Act. The legislation also expands the Federal Trade Commission's oversight authority of health insurers to include not for profit entities:

"Repealing insurance companies' current anti-trust exemption is good in principle, and something I support, but it's transparent that the Democrats' decision to bring this bill to the floor is about politics, not impactful policy."

"According to the Congressional Budget Office, the bill could affect the costs of, and premiums charged by, private health insurance companies but whether premiums would increase or decrease as a result is difficult to determine. Either way, it is clear this bill will not produce significant change and is hardly the stand against corporations and profiteering Democrats claim it is. Instead of working on changing the law in a meaningful way that would measurably help the American people, Democrats are just out for quick and hollow political victories."

"Let's also be clear, this bill will not address the right of individuals to shop for a plan in a different state. Democrats still refuse to include provisions that would increase real competition by allowing the purchase of health insurance across state lines."

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